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BREEZE HILL NEWS

Vol. III

DECEMBER, 1938

No. 8



ZANTHORHIZA
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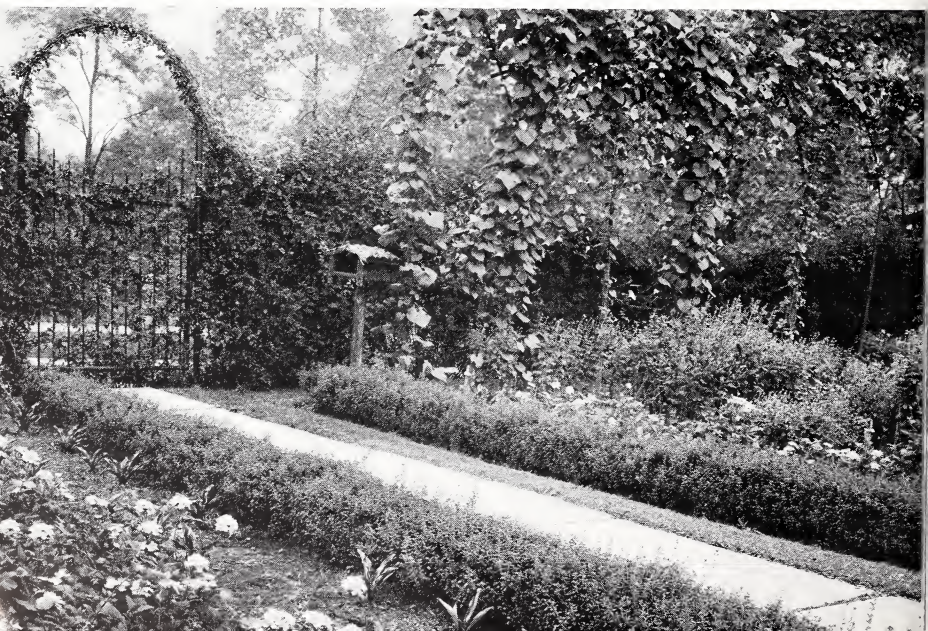
BREEZE HILL NEWS is just that, for it is the news of Breeze Hill—the only place maintained to try out various garden plants as to beauty, adaptability, habit, bloom, and ability to “take it.” It reaches far and wide to make these trials effective.

But it would be easy to do trials in rows, anywhere, as in the nursery. Breeze Hill has other ideals. The trials must not only provide pictures to photograph, but they must *make* pictures to look at. That is why many thousands of visitors come all season to see Breeze Hill.

BREEZE HILL is really the laboratory of the unique Mount Pleasant Press. To be sure, it has presses and typesetting machines, and all the rest of the paraphernalia of a modern high-grade print-shop. It also houses and constantly increases what is probably the world's largest collection of indexed horticultural photographs, four-color engravings, and accurate color records. All this maintains its ability to produce superior books and satisfactory horticultural catalogues. The personnel of the Press warrants the belief that nowhere else is there equal knowledge and talent, focused upon making gardens better, and upon making garden literature more truthful and pleasing.

The Mount Pleasant Press is not cheap in any of its methods. The use of its product is usually profitable to its Catalogue customers who look beyond the cost of the printed page to what that page will produce for them.

TEUCRIUM CHAMAEDRYS



THE USEFUL TEUCRIUM CHAMAEDRYS

This European Germander—and which is worse, the Latin binomial or the harsh common name!—is an obliging little shrub which starting out with decumbent stems would like to sprawl around in a careless manner, but when under the suggesting influence of a pair of shears learns to become a compact plant standing upright to a height of about a foot and from 8 to 12 inches through. The stems put out opposite ascending branches about a half-inch apart all the way up, the lower ones quite short while the upper ones are 2 to 3 inches long. The stems are light green and lightly pubescent.

The foliage, which makes the plant important, is very dark green with a shiny upper surface, a pale grayish green underneath. The little leaves, on very short petioles, are heart-shaped, a quarter-inch long and the same in width, appearing in opposite pairs about as far apart on the branches. When rubbed, the foliage gives off a strong and pleasant aromatic scent.

The flowers of *T. Chamaedrys* are not as spectacular as are those of other Germanders, but are pleasing against the lovely dark foliage. They vary in color between light rose and reddish purple and appear in loose spikes.

As a rockery specimen, or in a border, this *Teucrium* is valuable for furnishing spots of deep green all the year round in mild climates, and during most of the year farther north. Undoubtedly the plant's greatest value is in its use as an easily managed low evergreen hedge where winters do not get below zero. If the tops should freeze badly there is little harm done unless the roots are killed, as the plant quickly makes satisfactory growth when growing weather appears in spring.

At Breeze Hill we have three Germander hedges, which, by two or three trimmings each year, are kept down to 6 to 8 inches high. This clipping cuts out the bloom, but bloom is not needed on these lovely little plants.

During the cold winter two or three years ago our plants were seriously frozen, and when spring came were brown almost to the ground, but in a few weeks, after a severe

pruning, the hedges were 3 to 4 inches high and as green as ever.

T. Chamaedrys revels in full sun and just ordinary soil (poor soil rather than rich suits it best), and if there are any diseases or insects that bother it they have kept away from Breeze Hill. The picture shows its bordering use to give us clean tulip foreground. The shorter hedge in the rock-garden is equally effective.—R. M. H.

THE ALL-AMERICA SEED TRIALS

BREEZE HILL is one of the twelve stations at which the world's seedsmen try out their new "posies," later offering for sale in their catalogues only the varieties chosen by a majority vote of the judges.

There were 70 varieties of flowers in the All-America Seed Trials this year, and it seems to this writer—one of the judges—that among them were more worthy subjects than has been the case during recent years. It is a pleasure to test these annuals when there are novelties that really are novelties.

Discussing the prize-winners alphabetically, we were very much pleased with ANTIRRHINUM, GUINEA GOLD, awarded a Bronze Medal. This is a dwarf variety, the plants averaging about 12 inches in height, carrying splendid dark green foliage which continued absolutely without a sign of disease all during the season—a real treat, as so many promising varieties of Snapdragons, even the supposedly "rust-resistant" varieties, have been badly afflicted with rust before the season was over. This English variety, however, came through the season right up to frost without a sign of foliage trouble. Being a dwarf variety, the spikes, of course, were rather short, but quite effective, averaging between 4 and 5 inches in length and at least 3 inches through. The color was light burnt-orange with the reverse of the bloom orange-pink. About 10 per cent of the plants had flowers of a somewhat lighter shade but hardly enough to be noticeable, and the test-bed carried good bloom continually from early July until blackened by frost. The flowers are delightfully fragrant and show well when cut. (This bed was limed twice

1939 ALL-AMERICA SELECTIONS



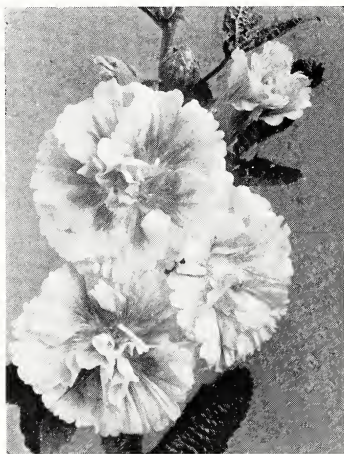
IPOMOEA, Scarlett O'Hara



MARIGOLD, Golden Glow



CYNOGLOSSUM, Firmament



HOLLYHOCK, Indian Spring

during the season, which treatment may or may not have had anything to do with the healthy condition of the plants.)

Last year we were excited over a large light blue Aster which came through the season in grand shape, the plants not showing any sign of disease until after they had finished blooming. This Aster was voted a Silver Medal at the trials last year but because of the shortage of seed was held over until this season, when it will make its first appearance in the 1939 catalogues as EARLY GIANT WILT-RESISTANT LIGHT BLUE ASTER. Referring to last year's notes, I find the blooms of this were then recorded as $4\frac{1}{2}$ -inch shaggy flowers of pleasing light lavender-blue. The flowers were borne on 12 to 18-inch stems, and it was marked as the best thing in the 1937 tests.

This trial has given us a new break in Cockscombs, in a variety named ROYAL VELVET, which received Honorable Mention in the final awards. What appeals to the writer was the fact that instead of one great big comb, as *Celosia cristata* has, these plants grow $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 feet tall, putting up from 6 to 12 stems, each stem bearing a small comb—at least they are small compared with the older types. The largest of these was not over 6 inches wide and less than 3 inches through, so that it made excellent cut-flower material from midsummer on, with medium-sized combs to dry for winter use. We used several vases of these in the Reception Room at the Mount Pleasant Press where they were greatly admired by visitors during the late summer and early fall. The color was a rich deep crimson, entirely without any fading or dulling during the life of the flowers.

A plant which did not appeal to me personally, but was considered by the rest of the judges important enough to be awarded a Bronze Medal, was the new CYNOGLOSSUM, FIRMAMENT. It developed plants about $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet tall and as broad, which carried, from mid-July until late September, tiny flowers of an attractive shade of light blue. The effect of this bloom is light and airy, but to the writer there were not enough flowers open at one time on a plant, and as the little Cynoglossum flowers dry up quickly after making a show, an inflorescence after the first burst of bloom is always

a mixture of just a few new flowers and a lot of dead ones. The foliage of these plants was about 6 inches long and 1 to 2 inches wide. No doubt this has a place among the not-too-plentiful blue garden annuals.

Ranking high because it is a real annual is the new HOLLYHOCK, INDIAN SPRING, awarded a Silver Medal. From seed started under glass February 21, and set in the garden May 26, we had considerable bloom during the latter part of July when the plants were 3 feet tall. The flowers were 4 inches across with 3 rows of deeply notched petals, making a pleasing, frilly flower of silver-white, flushed, stained and washed with carmine-pink, the color softening with age. After blooming, the plants were cut back to within a few inches of the ground, and by mid-September were in full bloom again on canes of about the same height. Our tallest plant was only 4 feet high, and this dwarfness appealed to us as being one of its virtues, because being so used to having the tall Hollyhock only, in the back of the border, or up against a wall or fence, it is good to have these lovely flowers on plants which can be placed somewhere else. The fact that this Hollyhock is really an annual and does not require portions of two years to produce bloom makes it one of the most important things in the 1938 trials.

Another carry-over from last year was IPOMOEA, SCARLETT O'HARA, which drew a Gold Medal in last year's trials, but had to be held over because there was not sufficient seed available. The only unfortunate thing about this lovely Morning-Glory is that, because of its name, gardeners will be looking for a really scarlet flower, whereas they are a rather pleasing shade of light crimson. The blooms are about the same size as the Improved Heavenly Blue, but the plant is not quite as strong a grower. It has distinct and peculiarly formed foliage, each leaf having one long lobe with two small ear-like lobes at the base. Scarlett O'Hara made a splendid show all during the season, lasting long after Heavenly Blue and the other Morning-Glories at Breeze Hill had dried their foliage and quit. The first frost of early October did not seem to bother it at all, and at this writing (October 17) the plants are covered with bloom, although these late



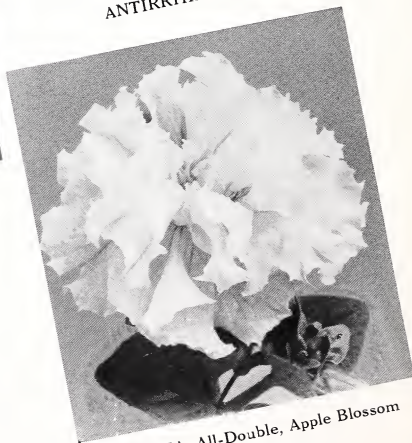
CELOSIA, Royal Velvet



ANTIRRHINUM, Guinea Gold



ASTER, Wilt-Resistant
Early Giant Light Blue



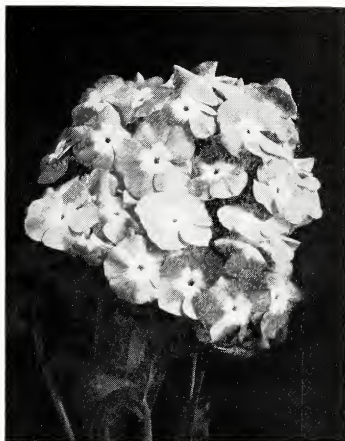
PETUNIA, All-Double, Apple Blossom

1939 *All-America*

SELECTIONS



SCABIOSA, Blue Moon



PHLOX, Salmon Glory



PETUNIA Hybrid, Hollywood Star



PETUNIA, Ladybird

flowers are only about half the size they were a month ago.

Gardeners in the North were disappointed several years ago because they were unable to flower the very attractive new Marigold, Dixie Sunshine, before frosts spoiled the plants. In this year's trials there were several early types of Dixie Sunshine, one of which, called EARLY SUNSHINE, received a Bronze Medal. Seed of this, planted out-of-doors on May 3, had a considerable number of open flowers when first notes were taken July 28. The flowers were of typical Dixie Sunshine appearance on plants which, instead of having the 4 to 5-foot height of the regular variety, were only 1½ feet tall when they came into bloom, but they did grow several inches taller before finishing. The foliage is very unlike that of the original variety, having a yellowish unhealthy look much like that of the scentless foliage of the Crown of Gold type of Marigold.

Another Marigold which made a hit, winning Honorable Mention, was GOLDEN GLOW. Flowers are of the Crown of Gold type, made up of closely packed tubular golden yellow petals, with a collarette of guard petals of the same color. This came into bloom very early in August when only 1½ feet tall, and being of the new family of scentless-foliaged Marigolds, will probably be popular with people who object to the ordinary Marigold odor. The plants of this, like that of its predecessor, had foliage of a rather sickly yellowish green, and passed out after producing a few flowers just as Crown of Gold did for us last year.

Four Petunias won awards, the finest of which was a new type with each lobe coming to a sharp point. This has been named HOLLYWOOD STAR, and drew a Silver Medal. It really is a distinctive Petunia with its star-shaped flowers of a pleasing shade of clear deep rose-pink having a white throat heavily lined with brown. In addition to the extremely sharp point of the lobes, the edges have a slight wave, adding to the attractiveness of the flower. The plants are quite compact and dwarf although by mid-October they were from 15 to 18 inches tall. We were very much pleased with this Petunia, not only because of the type of the flower, but because the plants were healthy and kept right on

blooming up to frost. It was also quite true to type, there being but 4 or 5 "rogues" in about 75 plants.

Another carry-over from last year, because of a shortage of seed, was the German PETUNIA, LADYBIRD, which was given a Bronze Medal. The plants were quite dwarf, compact, and carried medium-sized flowers of deep rose-pink with a brownish throat. (The writer was not as excited about this as some of the other judges were.)

Also important enough to the judges to warrant a Bronze Medal was the PETUNIA, VELVET BALL, which might be considered a Flaming Velvet flower on a dwarf plant. The plants were about 10 inches tall and just a little straggly. The $2\frac{1}{4}$ -inch flowers were deep purple with a dark violet throat. Instead of fading, the color became darker with age, and the plants produced good flowers all through September. Planted close together it would make a lovely bed.

Most of the large double Petunias seem to have more value as pot-plants than they do in the garden, but the double Japanese variety, PETUNIA, APPLE BLOSSOM, made a very nice appearance, both in the test-beds and when used in the borders throughout the garden. Two types of flowers appeared, about half of each. The largest were 4 inches across, fully double and frilled, in an attractive shade of shell-pink. The rest of the plants bore smaller flowers of a deeper pink, not so double. However, the flowers were all beautiful, and the plants bloomed freely into late September. The runners or stems were about 2 feet long, with the ends fairly upright so that the flowers were kept out of the mud. This Petunia is a real prize.

A probable selection from the popular Gigantea Art Shades which have been in catalogues for three or four years, the new PHLOX DRUMMONDI, SALMON GLORY, appeared important enough to the judges to merit a Silver Medal. It was in full bloom by late July when it was 15 inches tall, with $1\frac{1}{8}$ -inch flowers of soft salmon-pink around a large creamy white center. This Phlox was still good when the last check was made, October 17, and we then noted it as being 100 per cent true.

1939 ALL-AMERICA SELECTIONS



PETUNIA, Velvet Ball



VERBENA, Blue Sentinel



ZINNIA, Fantasy, White Light



MARIGOLD, Early Sunshine

A new SCABIOSA, BLUE MOON, received Honorable Mention because of its very fine upright plants which branched all the way up the stem, producing generous quantities of 2-inch pin-cushions of pale lavender-blue on long, straight stems.

A very lovely deep violet-blue Verbena which has been named BLUE SENTINEL received a well-deserved Bronze Medal. The plants held the flowers almost 1 foot above the ground and the 2½-inch heads went through their life with little, if any, change in color. The individual florets were ¾ inch across, making a very attractive flower-head. Plants bloomed from late July until mid-September.

Another novelty held over from last year was the FANTASY ZINNIA, WHITE LIGHT, which will appeal to all those who like the Fantasy type of these plants. The flowers are as white as yet seen in a Zinnia, which favorite annual has so far failed to produce any snow-white blooms. However, it is white, and has its place. Its award was an Honorable Mention.

To the writer the most important entry in this year's Seed Trials was an Ageratum which is really dwarf, and if ever an annual deserved a Gold Medal this commentator believes that this variety should have it. However, there was not seed enough for its introduction this season, wherefore it will have to be held until next year. Out of 60 plants we had in one row, 58 were less than 4 inches high, very uniform in height, width, and quantity of bloom produced. The other two plants of the 60 were probably twice as tall, but even then were smaller than most of the dwarf Ageratums which we had nearby for comparison. From seed planted under glass on February 21 and set out June 3 it was in full bloom by late July. The color is a true azure-blue. Plants were still in good condition when this was written, October 17.

Two Petunias came which we were sorry to see did not sufficiently appeal to the judges to be rewarded. The first, a Japanese variety named BLUE BALL, was in full bloom by July 1 with medium-sized deep violet-blue flowers, a color which lasted throughout the life of the flower. The plants

were only 1 to 1½ feet tall; they kept in good condition and were covered with bloom right up to late September. The other, also a Japanese variety, was a solid mass of white from July 1 until frost. The blooms were held about 1 foot above the ground. Plants had good foliage, and the flowers were pure clean white. If there is a white bedding Petunia as good as this one, the writer has never seen it.

We also want to say a good word for MARIGOLD, ORANGE SUNSET, a selection from the Sunset Giants. The flowers of this were 100 per cent orange, and the great plants carried dozens of mammoth flowers 4 to 6 inches in diameter, fully double and of the richest orange shade one could expect. —R. M. H.

SORBARIA ARBOREA

Our plant of this little-known beauty came to Breeze Hill among the late Dr. Wilson's Chinese introductions from the Arnold Arboretum in 1913 and is now a large spreading shrub some 10 feet tall, bearing narrow, pointed, serrated, fern-like foliage, having from 13 to 21 leaflets to a stem and suggesting the Mountain-Ash or Sorbus, for which it is named. Blooming, as it does, all through July and August, its foamy flowers are especially pleasing. The inflorescence consists of great panicles of little five-petaled creamy white flowers with a mass of spreading white stamens extending above and beyond the flower, giving the flower cluster a plummy appearance. These panicles of bloom hang from the ends of long, arching branches, succeeding each other for many weeks.

In looking over the dozen panicles of bloom which the shrub yet carried on September 1, I noted that the flowers had a slight, peculiar scent.

Being perfectly hardy and very decorative this good Chinese shrub needs to be better known and more generally planted. At Breeze Hill, insects and disease seem to pass it by, and although authorities recommend moist, rich soil, our matured plant is flourishing in Breeze Hill shale, depending for food on occasional droppings from robins which rest on its branches and getting its moisture from the clouds. —R. M. H.

ZANTHORHIZA APIIFOLIA

This awkward botanical name covers several colonies of the Yellow-Root at Breeze Hill. If there are any plants in the collection with more distinctive characteristics, we just can't think of them at this moment.

This native of Eastern North America is found in the wild in moist shade, but at Breeze Hill it has the shade without much moisture. In spite of this, the plants do quite well; in fact, if they did any better we might need to start thinning them out, or to consider the plant as a useful weed, like *Rubus odoratus* or *Pachysandra terminalis*.

Our bushes grow from 1 to 2 feet tall, and are interesting at all times. Young plants push up a bare stem which covers itself, when 12 to 15 inches tall, with an umbrella-like head of deeply cut foliage consisting of five bright lustrous green leaflets on long stems.

Older plants put out branches from or near the top, and from these umbrella-like heads hang in early spring, the peculiar *Zanthorhiza* inflorescence. This airy affair is made up of six or more branches, each branchlet supporting a drooping raceme of widely spaced flowers on quarter-inch stems. These odd blooms have five petal-like sepals of a brownish violet color and a pale yellow zone at the base of the petals surrounding green stamens. While unusually interesting when examined closely, the flowers are so inconspicuous in their shady home that one might walk through a colony in bloom without noticing them.

In the fall the foliage turns a pleasing shade of yellow, which color is retained for several weeks, and is especially good at Breeze Hill in early December.

This is a grand plant for open woodlands or shrub borders. It is best obtainable from a dependable collector, like E. C. Robbins, of Ashford, N. C. Increase may be by seed or division of old plants. Young seedlings are said to be rather finicky, but divisions of old rootstocks are easy and grow off readily, quickly making strong plants.—R. M. H.



SORBARIA *arborea*

Beautiful flowering shrub from the heart of war-torn China